

paratory to flight. In view of the unfavourable collecting conditions during my visits, this score of *M. loreyi* must have been only a few representatives of a very considerable invasion of this insect to S.W. Cornwall during late September and perhaps early October, 1985. Two females taken laid rows of eggs inside grass stems split open previously by thumb nail, and in the grass sheaths; the eggs hatched in about a week.

An immigrant species seen by day was *Vanessa cardui*, one being observed at the Lizard and five at Helston, all on October 3rd. B. K. WEST, 36 Briar Road, Bexley, Kent.

HELOPHORUS GRISEUS HBST. (COL.: HYDROPHILIDAE) IN S. E. LONDON. — As this species (= *affinis* Marsh., *sensu* Sharp) is far from common and may not be credibly recorded from the metropolitan area except once as under, it is worth noting that I have in recent years found two examples (14.iv.84, 28.viii.85) — both males identified from the aedeagophore — in the pond on Blackheath from which I had already reported the still rarer *H. longitarsis* Woll. (1984, *Ent.mon.Mag.* 120:242). They were passed at the time as the extremely similar *H. minutus* F., common in the district; the separation of the two species is critical. I have lately detected a further male *griseus* from my former garden at Blackheath, from a small artificial pond where *minutus* was frequent; it has a brighter green pronotum than any of the latter, unlike those from the pond on the heath.

On the latter of the two above dates, besides the single *griseus* two further *longitarsis* were obtained: a female, and a very small male of the same size as the *griseus*. What makes this of some little interest is the fact that these two uncommon species are the only Helophori so far found to inhabit the pond — apart from an occasional *brevipalpis* Bed. which seems no more than casual there, though normally so abundant. However, the two rarer species are known to favour broadly similar conditions, and in fact were taken together in this district late last century. Thus, Sharp (1916, *Ent. mon. Mag.* 70: 168) wrote of his *H. diffinis* (= *longitarsis*): “Mr. Champion found an individual at Lee in Kent many years ago, and it was accompanied by a mimetic variety of *H. affinis*”. The two localities are barely three miles apart; Lee Pit (alas, long gone), then a favourite haunt of London collectors, used to yield many ‘good’ species. — A. A. ALLEN.

LARVA OF MOMPHA LACTEELLA (STEPHENS) ON EPILOBIUM MONTANUM IN APRIL. — On 18th. May 1985 I bred a female *Mompha lacteella* (Stephens) (confirmed by dissection) from a larva I found at Dewerstone Woods, Devon on 13th. April. It was mining the upper surface of a leaf at the tip of *Epilobium montanum*. In the mine the larva appeared brownish with white pinacula and a black head and plate. Unfortunately I did not see it when it emerged and before it spun its cocoon.